

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

1872.

JANUARY 2.

Mr. WM. S. VAUX, Vice-President, in the chair.

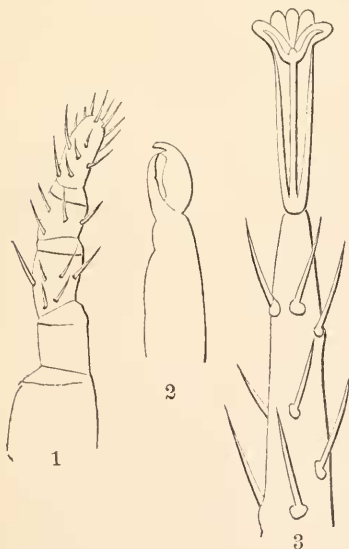
Twenty-three members present.

The following paper was presented for publication:—

“List of the Reptilia of the Eocene Formation of New Jersey.”

By EDW. D. COPE.

On a Mite in the Ear of the Ox.—Prof. LEIDY remarked that he had received a letter from Dr. Charles S. Turnbull, in which he stated that while studying the anatomy of the ear he had discovered in several heads of steers, at the bottom of the external auditory meatus, a number of small living parasites. They were found attached to the surface of the membrana tympani. Specimens of the parasite preserved in glycerine, and a petrosal bone with the membrana tympani, to which several of the parasites were clinging, were also sent for examination. These prove to be a mite or acarus, apparently of the genus *Gamasus*. The body is ovoid, translucent white, about $\frac{3}{5}$ of a line long, and $\frac{2}{5}$ of a line wide. The limbs, jaws, and their appendages are brown and bristled. The body is smooth or devoid of bristles. The limbs



are from $\frac{2}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a line long. The feet are terminated by a five-lobed disk and a pair of claws, as represented in figure 3. The palpi are six-jointed, as represented in figure 1. The mandibles end in pincers or chelæ, resembling lobster claws, as represented in figure 2. The movable joint of the chelæ has two teeth at the end. The opposed extremity of the fixed joint of the chelæ is narrow, and ends in a hook.

Whether this mite is a true parasite of the ear of the living ox, or whether it obtained access to the position in which it was found after the death of the ox in the slaughter house, has not yet been determined. Dr. Turnbull observed it only in the position indicated.

JANUARY 9.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-three members present.

JANUARY 16.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-one members present.

JANUARY 23.

Dr. CARSON, Vice-President, in the chair.

Twenty-six members present.

Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN said that among the ranchmen and miners of California a belief exists that the mammoth *Sequoias* will live eight or ten years after being girdled. These trees often had strips of bark taken off for some distance up, and completely round, for the purpose of exhibition in other countries.

This belief has been generally discredited by those of us accustomed to the prevalent ideas of the effects of girdling. But experience having taught him how often popular observation was nearly at least correct, notwithstanding our predisposition to believe implicitly accepted conclusions, he had watched for some opportunity to test, by some observations of his own, the Californian idea.

A few years ago an Austrian pine on his grounds had the main stem partially girdled by an insect. The opportunity before referred to suggested itself; and he completed the injury, entirely girdling the stem. It was then staked securely to prevent the wind from breaking it off at the injured place. The part above the

[April 16,